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Application :	09 766 596	Examiner :	K Rinehart
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			GAU : 3749 Date: 01.06.06

Tracking #: 09 766 596
Week Date: 06 - 08 - 06
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1449		<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Data
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<input type="checkbox"/> IIFW		<input type="checkbox"/> Fees
<input type="checkbox"/> SRFW		<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> DRW		
<input type="checkbox"/> OATH		
<input type="checkbox"/> 312		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPEC	01 - 22 - 01	

[RUSH] MESSAGE:

In the SPECIFICATION: page 6
line 11 — between 'and' and 'area';
line 13 — between 'the' and 'wafers'.
Please provide the missing text.

[XRUSH] RESPONSE:

See misc comm
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INITIALS: *[Signature]*

NOTE: This form will be included as part of the official USPTO record, with the Response document coded as XRUSH.
REV 10/04

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VIA FACSIMILE - 5 PAGES (Including This Cover)

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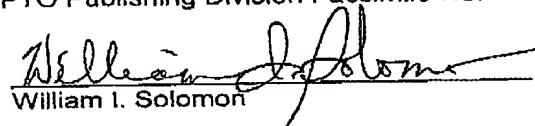
RE: S. Kato, et al. – U.S. Application No. 09/766,596
Atty Docket No. 503.30414V22

SUBMISSION OF: Response to Notice to file Corrected Application Papers
(Notice of Allowance Mailed) (2 pp.) and Notice to File Corrected Application
Papers mailed March 2, 2006 (2 pp.)

SIR:
 Applicant hereby submits the attached Response for entry in the above-noted application.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that the attached Response (2 pp.) and Notice (2 pp.) are being FORMALLY TRANSMITTED via the USPTO Publishing Division Facsimile No. 571-273-9009 on April 3, 2006.



William I. Solomon

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520.30414V22

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**In re Application of: S. Kato, et al.**

Application No.: 09/766,596

Filed: January 23, 2001

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
METHOD THEREFOR

Group: 3749

Examiner: Kenneth Rinehart

RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE CORRECTED APPLICATION PAPERS
(NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE MAILED)**Mail Stop: Missing Parts**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 3, 2006

Sir:

The Notice to File Corrected Application Papers mailed March 2, 2006, in the above-identified application, is noted. This Notice indicates that the Specification at page 6, lines 11 and 12, has missing and illegible text; and requests that the missing information be faxed or e-mailed PDF.

In response thereto, the following constitutes the information on page 6, lines 11 and 12 including any missing information:

"with a robot having X, Y, Z and θ axes, which operates so as to deliver and receive the wafers 20"

That is, page 10, line 11 has "θ" in what appears to be "illegible text" before the word "axes"; and line 12 of page 6 has no missing or illegible text, the word "dummy" from original Application No. 07/751,951, filed August 29, 1991, having been deleted

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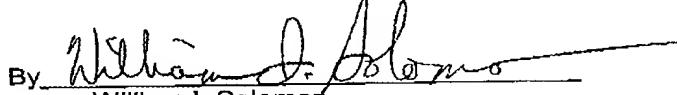
therein and having been "whited out" from the application papers of Application No. 09/766,596, in the application papers originally filed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Notice mailed March 2, 2006, has been completely responded to, and any missing or illegible application text has been submitted. Issuance of a U.S. Patent based upon the above-identified application, in due course, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No.520.30414V22), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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P.O. Box 1450
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Serial Number
09766596

Date Mailed
3/02/06

NOTICE TO FILE CORRECTED APPLICATION PAPERS

Notice of Allowance Mailed

This application has been accorded an Allowance Date and is being prepared for issuance. The application, however, is incomplete for the reasons below.

Applicant is given 30 days from the mail date of this Notice within which to correct the informalities indicated below. A failure to reply will result in the application being ABANDONED. This period for reply is NOT extendable under 37 CFR 1.136 (a) or (b).

- ♦ Specification, page 6, lines 11 and 12 have missing and illegible text. Fax missing information to number below or e-mail PDF.
- ♦ For status updates visit <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR System, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) toll free at 866-217-9197.

APPLICANT MUST SUPPLY MISSING INFORMATION WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE MAIL DATE OF THIS NOTICE.

A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the reply. Please address response to Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


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- 6 -

and 2b, and a conveyor 13 is disposed between the cassette tables 2a, 2b and the load lock chamber 5 and the unload lock chamber 6. The load lock chamber 5 is equipped with an evacuating device 3 and a gas introduction device 4, and can load unprocessed wafers in the vacuum apparatus through a gate valve 12a. The unload lock chamber 6 is similarly equipped with the evacuating device 3 and the gas introduction device 4, and can take out processed wafers to the atmosphere through a gate valve 12d. The conveyor 13 is equipped with a robot having X, Y, Z and θ axes, which operates so as to deliver and receive the wafers 20 between the cassettes 1a, 1b and the load lock and unload lock chambers 5 and 6 and the dummy wafers 30 between the cassette 1c and the load lock and unload lock chambers 5 and 6.

The load lock chamber 5 and the unload lock chamber 6 are connected to a transfer chamber 16 through the gate valves 12b and 12c. The transfer chamber 16 is rectangular, in this case, and etching chambers 11a, 11b and 11c are disposed on the three side walls of the transfer chamber 16 through gate valves 15a, 15b and 15c, respectively. A conveyor 14 capable of delivering the wafers 20 or the dummy wafers 30 from the load lock chamber 5 to the etching chambers 11a, 11b, 11c and of delivering them from the chambers 11a, 11b, 11c to the unload lock chamber 6 is disposed inside the transfer chamber 16. The transfer chamber 16 is equipped with an evacuating device 17 capable of independent evacuation.

The etching chambers 11a, 11b, 11c have the same structure and can make the same processing. The explanation will be given on the etching chamber 11b by way of example. The etching chamber 11b has a sample table 8b for placing the wafers 20 thereon, and